CLAIM AMENDMENT

1.   (currently amended) A method for facilitating data synchronization, comprising the steps of:

  (a) obtaining a list of encoding methods from a remote object store;

  ~~(a) checking object store replica information corresponding to a remote object store;~~

  (b) extracting a first set of objects to be synchronized with said remote object store;

  (c) packing said first set of objects, their associated identifiers and synchronization versions into a request synchronization message;

  (d) sending said request synchronization message to said remote object store;

  (e) receiving a response synchronization message from said remote object store, said response synchronization message indicating a number of updated objects at the remote object store; and

  (f) resetting a corresponding set of synchronization versions to said updated objects~~; and~~

  ~~(g) purging off said updated objects~~.

2.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

  (1) checking object store replica information corresponding to said remote object store;

  (~~1~~2) sending a request message to said remote object store if any information is missing from said object store replica information;

  (~~2~~3) receiving a response from said remote object store ~~including a list of encoding methods~~; and

  (~~3~~4) registering said response in said object store replica information.

3.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

  (1) updating objects based on said request synchronization message at said remote object store; and

  (2) sending a response synchronization message providing a number of objects received and processed.

4.   (canceled)

5.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

adding a field in said request synchronization message indicating whether said request synchronization message is a last request to said remote object store.

Claims 6-12. (canceled)

13.   (currently amended) A computer program product for facilitating data synchronization, comprising:

(a)   logic code for obtaining a list of encoding methods from a remote object store;

(a)   ~~logic code for checking object store replica information corresponding to a remote object store;~~

(b)   logic code for extracting a first set of objects to be synchronized with said remote object store;

(c)   logic code for packing said first set of objects, their associated identifiers and synchronization versions into a request synchronization message;

(d)   logic code for sending said request synchronization message to said remote object store;

(e)   logic code for receiving a response synchronization message from said remote object store, said response synchronization message indicating a number of updated objects at the remote object store; and

(f)   logic code for resetting a corresponding set of synchronization versions to said updated objects;~~ and~~

~~(g)   logic code for purging off said updated objects.~~

14.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising:

(1)   logic code for checking object store replica information corresponding to said remote object store;

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(~~1~~2)   logic code for sending a request message to said remote object store if any information is missing from said object store replica information;

(~~2~~3)   logic code for receiving a response from said remote object store ~~including a list of encoding methods~~; and

(~~3~~4)   logic code for registering said response in said object store replica information.

15.   (original) The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising:

(1)   logic code for updating objects based on said request synchronization message at said remote object store; and

(2)   logic code for sending a response synchronization message providing a number of objects received and processed.

16.   (canceled)

17.   (original) The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising:

logic code for adding a field in said request synchronization message indicating whether said request synchronization message is a last request to said remote object store.

Claims 18-24. (canceled)